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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 16 | Humidity 68% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 76,138 | Nifty 23,031 | Gold 87,050 | Silver 99,500 | Dollar 86.90 | Euro 90.52 | GBP 108.56

TATA WPL

FIXTURES

14 FEB TO 15 MAR

MATCH NO	DAY	DAY	DATE	TIME	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	VENUE
1	1	Fri	14-Feb-25	Evening	Gujarat Giants	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Vadodara
2	2	Sat	15-Feb-25	Evening	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Vadodara
3	3	Sun	16-Feb-25	Evening	Gujarat Giants	UP Warriorz	Vadodara
4	4	Mon	17-Feb-25	Evening	Delhi Capitals	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Vadodara
5	5	Tue	18-Feb-25	Evening	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai Indians	Vadodara
6	6	Wed	19-Feb-25	Evening	UP Warriorz	Delhi Capitals	Vadodara
	7	Thu	20-Feb-25	-	-	-	-
7	8	Fri	21-Feb-25	Evening	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Mumbai Indians	Bengaluru
8	9	Sat	22-Feb-25	Evening	Delhi Capitals	UP Warriorz	Bengaluru
	10	Sun	23-Feb-25	-	-	-	-
9	11	Mon	24-Feb-25	Evening	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	UP Warriorz	Bengaluru
10	12	Tue	25-Feb-25	Evening	Delhi Capitals	Gujarat Giants	Bengaluru
11	13	Wed	26-Feb-25	Evening	Mumbai Indians	UP Warriorz	Bengaluru
12	14	Thu	27-Feb-25	Evening	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Gujarat Giants	Bengaluru
13	15	Fri	28-Feb-25	Evening	Delhi Capitals	Mumbai Indians	Bengaluru
14	16	Sat	1-Mar-25	Evening	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Delhi Capitals	Bengaluru
	17	Sun	2-Mar-25	-	-	-	-
15	18	Mon	3-Mar-25	Evening	UP Warriorz	Gujarat Giants	Lucknow
	19	Tue	4-Mar-25	-	-	-	-
	20	Wed	5-Mar-25	-	-	-	-
16	21	Thu	6-Mar-25	Evening	UP Warriorz	Mumbai Indians	Lucknow
17	22	Fri	7-Mar-25	Evening	Gujarat Giants	Delhi Capitals	Lucknow
18	23	Sat	8-Mar-25	Evening	UP Warriorz	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Lucknow
	24	Sun	9-Mar-25	-	-	-	-
19	25	Mon	10-Mar-25	Evening	Mumbai Indians	Gujarat Giants	Mumbai-CCI
20	26	Tue	11-Mar-25	Evening	Mumbai Indians	Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Mumbai-CCI
	27	Wed	12-Mar-25	-	-	-	-
21	28	Thu	13-Mar-25	Evening	Eliminator		Mumbai-CCI
	29	Fri	14-Mar-25	-	-	-	-
22	30	Sat	15-Mar-25	Evening	**Final**		Mumbai-CCI

MID INNINGS FAN ENTERTAINMENT

VADODARA: MADHUBANTI BAGCHI, DHVANI BHANUSHALI, AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, KINJAL DAVE

LUCKNOW: JONITA GANDHI

BENGALURU: BHOOMI TRIVEDI, SUKRITI KAKAR & PRAKRITI KAKAR, SHRUTI HASSAN, VAANI KAPOOR, ZAHRAN S KHAN, AASTHA GILL

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HEALTH TIP: A number of human studies have shown that raw garlic favorably affects important risk factors for cardiovascular disease

Consumption of garlic has been shown to decrease total and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) and triglyceride levels

BangaloreMirror
Friday, February 14, 2025
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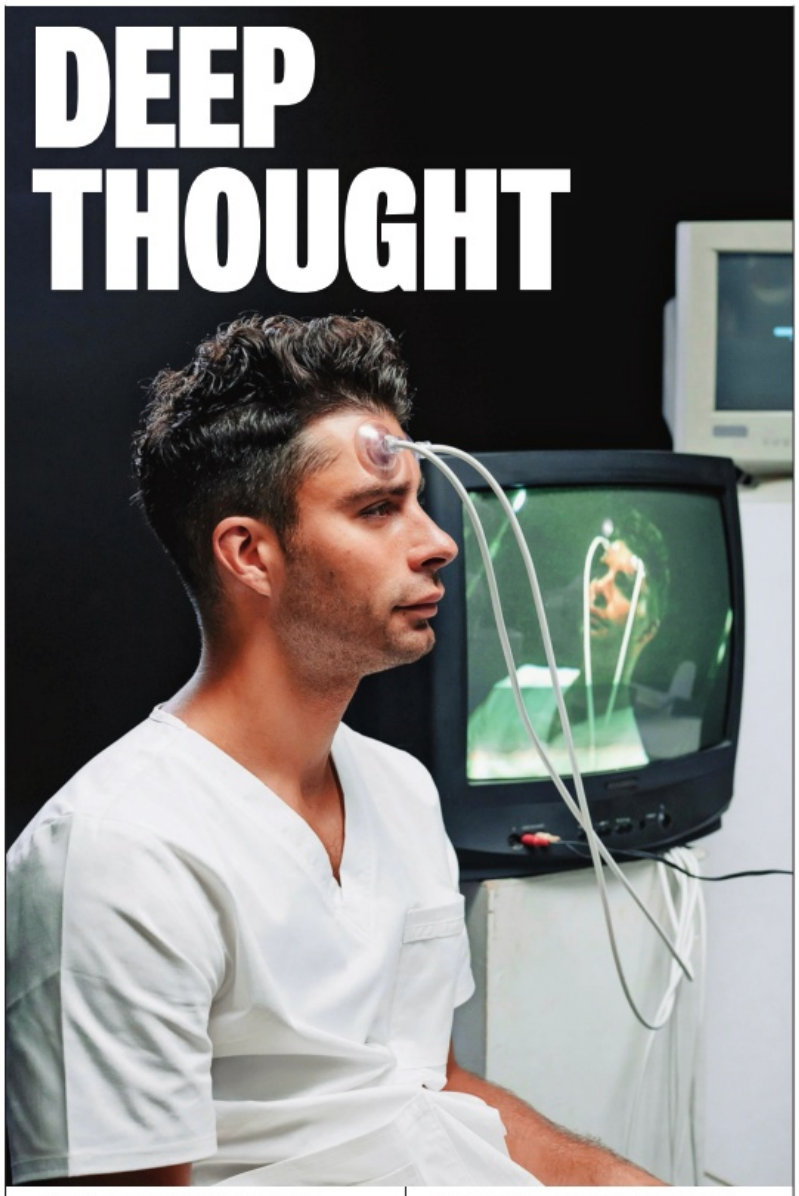
DEEP THOUGHT



Treating mental illness with electricity marries old ideas with modern tech

Mental illnesses such as obsessive compulsive disorder, depression and addiction are notoriously hard to treat and often don't respond to drugs. But a new wave of treatments that stimulate the brain with electricity are showing promise in patients and in clinical trials. We talk to three experts and one patient about the history of treating mental illness, how new technology and deeper understanding of the brain are leading to better treatments and where the neuroscience of mental illness is headed next.

It's not uncommon to hear people joke about how their "OCD" makes them want to straighten a crooked picture or clean a smudge on a countertop, but for people actually living with severe obsessive compulsive disorder, the reality is anything but funny.

Moksha Patel is a physician and professor at the University of Colorado and has severe OCD. "OCD was really taking over my life. The most obvious of my symptoms were not being able to use any public restrooms, showering for an hour after using the restrooms each time and using chemical cleaners on my skin and my mouth," he says. After struggling for years, Patel eventually connected with Rachel Davis, a psychiatrist and researcher also at the University of Colorado. Davis suggested that he could be a good candidate for deep brain stimulation as a treatment for his OCD.

"Deep brain stimulation involves the implantation of electrodes in the deeper areas of the brain," Davis explains. These electrodes then transfer into the brain itself small electrical currents that a doctor and their patient try to tune correctly. As Davis explains, "Basically we're looking to find the settings where the patient feels that their mood is better, their anxiety is less and they have more energy."

Deep brain stimulation works well for a lot of patients and has only started to get mainstream attention in the past decade or so, but ideas underlying this treatment are nearly 60 years old. As explained by Joseph Fins, a neuroethicist and professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, part of Cornell University in the US, it all started with a Spanish neuroscientist named Jose Manuel Rodriguez Delgado in 1964. "He put a thing called the stimoceiver, a deep brain stimulator, into the brain of a charging bull. And with an electrical current controlled by radio frequency, he was able to stop the bull in its tracks."

While this work got Delgado on the front page of The New York Times, it came on the heels of a horrific era of mental health treatment that involved lobotomies, electroshock therapy and many other destructive and deeply unethical interventions. So when researchers began to discover drugs that could help people with mental illness, Fins says "psychosurgery and these types of somatic therapies began to fall out of favor and physicians moved away from more physical interventions."

As modern neuroscience led to better understanding of how the brain works, and stigma surrounding physical treatments faded, deep brain stimulation got its second chance in the sun. And as technology has improved, researchers like Jacinta O'Shea, a neuroscientist at the University of Oxford have begun to study a noninvasive technique for stimulating the brain with electricity, called transcranial magnetic stimulation.

"If you place a ferromagnetic coil on the scalp and pass a rapidly changing electrical current through that coil, it will induce an electric field that passes painlessly through the skull and into the brain tissue underneath," O'Shea explains. And just as with deep brain stimulation, these electrical fields can help people overcome mental health issues like depression.

Researchers still don't quite know how deep brain stimulation or transcranial magnetic stimulation work, but with every new treatment, they are learning more about the complicated world of the brain and taking steps toward the treatments of tomorrow.

Daniel Merino, The Conversation and Gemma Ware, The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

How air pollution harms your heart & ways to protect it

Have you ever thought air pollution has an adverse effect that's beyond respiratory issues? Yes, it does and this time this growing global concern affects the heart health. Research has shown that prolonged exposure to polluted air can significantly impact our heart, increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks, strokes, and high blood pressure. "Not only does it cause the development of new onset hypertension and heart ailments but also aggravates pre-existing heart conditions," warns Dr. Purabi Koch, Consultant, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai. "Air pollutants include Particulate Matter (PM), Sulphur and nitrous dioxides and carbon monoxide that enter the bloodstream through the lungs and cause systemic inflammation. Particulate pollution is found in smoke, smog and sometimes even in seemingly clean air. Exposure to increased concentration of particulate matter especially with diameters less than 2.5 micrometers are harmful for us," she adds.

How Our Heart Gets Affected?

Cardiovascular damage primarily occurs through three mechanisms: oxidative stress and inflammation, leading to the thickening of arteries, endothelial dysfunction, and atherosclerosis; deregulation of the autonomic nervous system, causing increased sympathetic nervous system activity and arrhythmias; and an increased risk of blood clot formation and thrombosis, which can result in acute ischemic strokes and heart attacks.

Who Is At Risk?

The people who are particularly at high risk—often referred to as the vulnerable population—include patients who have previously suffered heart attacks, those who have undergone angioplasty or bypass surgery, individuals with heart failure, and patients with rhythm abnormalities.

Both short- and long-term exposure to air pollution has been shown to increase hospitalizations for serious cardiovascular events, such as acute coronary syndrome, arrhythmias, and sudden cardiac death.

How Can We Prevent?

- Regularly checking your local Air Quality Index (AQI).
- Limiting outdoor exercise or other activities when pollution levels are high.
- Wearing a mask (preferably an N95) if you must step out during poor air quality.
- Incorporating a diet rich in antioxidants—such as fresh berries, oranges, apricots, mangoes, red grapes, and tomatoes—can help combat oxidative stress.
- Foods containing omega-3 fatty acids, like fish and nuts, also contribute to heart health.

Ultimately, air pollution is a modifiable risk factor for heart disease and should be addressed both at an individual level and as a society. Reducing air pollution will significantly lower the disease burden and improve overall public health.

—Femina

All you need to know about...

Ozempic uses

In alcohol use disorder

Novo Nordisk's blockbuster GLP-1 diabetes drug Ozempic led to improvements in some measures of alcohol use disorder in a small trial, researchers reported on Wednesday.

The 48 participants in the nine-week trial all had moderately severe alcohol use disorder and were given either once-weekly Ozempic or a placebo.

The trial

Ahead of the trial, they were invited to drink their preferred alcoholic beverages over a two-hour period in a comfortable setting.

In a second drinking session at the end of the trial, participants who received treatment with Ozempic consumed significantly less alcohol than at the first session, which was not the case for the placebo group, according to results published in JAMA Psychiatry.

Reduced cravings

While Ozempic significantly reduced participants' weekly alcohol cravings, there was no significant difference between the groups in reductions in drinking days. And the number of drinks per day, averaged over the total number of days in the study, was reduced to a similar extent in both groups.

But when averaging the number of drinks only on the days alcohol was consumed, the reduction was greater in the Ozempic group. And over time, there was a greater reduction in heavy drinking days -- defined as four or more drinks for women and five or more for men -- in the Ozempic group.

Semaglutide effect

The results suggest the potential of semaglutide – the main ingredient in Ozempic and Novo's higher-dose weight-loss drug Wegovy – and similar drugs "to fill an unmet need for the treatment of alcohol use disorder," study leader Klara Klein of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine said in a statement.

—Reuters

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CITY PAGE 2

Rosy picture Roses from state are a hit across country; in 6 days, flower trade likely to generate revenue of around ₹4.80 crore

Pay attention After traffic police catch woman working on her laptop while driving, issue of distracted driving raises head in city

CITY PAGE 5

Tree management team attends to over 18,000 complaints over last 10 months; BBMP says this is because online system of recording complaints has created robust tracking mechanism

THAT'S THE WAY THE CANOPY CRUMBLES

Conservationists say trees could be getting weaker due to poor management

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Over the last 10 months, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) tree canopy management team has attended to 18,587 cases across eight BBMP zones.

The maximum number of cases were reported from Bengaluru West (4,405), followed by South (4,329), East (3,691), RR Nagar (1,523), Yelahanka (1,426), Bommanahalli (1,306), Mahadevpura (1,285), and Dasarahalli (622).

The complaints of falling trees/ branches in Bengaluru appear to be on the rise.

The number of cases that the team attended between April 2020 and March 2021 was 7,472. It went up to 12,107 between April 2021 and March 2022, followed by 17,948 canopy management cases between April 2023 and March 2024. However, between April 2024 and January 2025, this number has gone up to 18,587.

According to BBMP's Forest Department, complaints from citizens are being managed through an online system with a robust tracking mechanism, leading to an increase in the number of reported cases.

"Starting August 2024, canopy management complaints from citizens are being logged in an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> **"Poor urban planning is the biggest reason behind the high number of canopy management cases. While we are widening roads and constructing mass transit systems, not much attention is being given to avenue trees**
>
> —Tree activist

FEB FEVER

Temperatures nearing peak summer levels in city though we are just out of winter

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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru is already experiencing 'summer-like heat' in mid-February, with temperatures soaring to an unseasonal high of 33.6°C on February 12—the highest recorded for this season. According to weather updates from Namma Karnataka Weather on X, this temperature is 3°C above normal, marking an early transition toward summer.

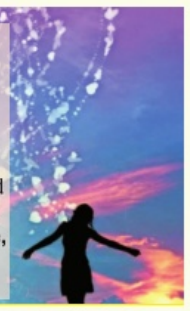
The update noted, "We have always considered 34°C as a metric for summer temperature since it is the normal during peak summer months of April. We are almost there at 33.6°C. Since January 20, continuous blue skies and clear weather have enabled maximum temperatures to reach summer levels. However, the minimum temperature remains at 16°C, which is 1.4°C below normal, creating a sharp difference of 17.6°C between day and night. Such extreme variations in temperature could lead to an increase in health issues."

Meanwhile, global weather patterns could influence upcoming climatic changes in Karnataka. Another update from Namma Karnataka Weather highlighted that the ongoing La Niña phenomenon is triggering significant rainfall across Southeast Asia and northern Australia. This could, in turn, affect peninsular India in the next 5-6 weeks as sea surface temperatures (SST) begin to rise. The report indicated that both

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Sacred space



A weekly journey into self-discovery and spiritual growth. Join us for insightful teachings, interactive discussions, and expert-guided sessions to connect with your true self. **Where: Urban Solace, Bangalore; When: Every Sunday, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm**

02 Laugh out loud

Don't miss this hilarious Kannada comedy, 'Pukkate Salahe', a satire on astrology TV shows, written by H Dundiraj. Enjoy diverse dialects, lively music, and sharp humour. Directed by Ashok B **Where: Dr C Aswath Kala Bhavana, NR Colony, Basavanagudi; When: February 16, 6.00pm**

03 Gifts of love

Celebrate love with Platinum Love Bands, crafted from 95% pure, rare platinum. With timeless designs symbolising strength and commitment, they are the perfect mark of an unbreakable bond. **Where: Available at leading jewellery stores; When: This February**

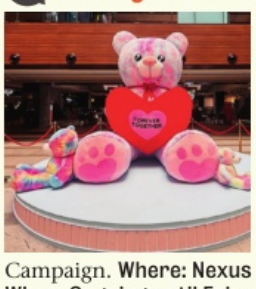
04 Vine & Dine

Enjoy fine wines, gourmet cuisine, and live music at Phoenix Mall of Asia with the Karnataka Grape and Wine Board. A perfect weekend for wine lovers and foodies. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia; When: February 15–16**

05 Love unplugged

Celebrate love through music and poetry with Kavita Seth at The Leela Palace Bengaluru. Experience an intimate evening of soulful ghazals and Sufi melodies in a setting that revives the charm of traditional mehfil. **Where: The Leela Palace Bengaluru; When: February 15, 9.30 pm**

05 Teddy Bear show



Nexus Shantiniketan Mall presents an extraordinary Gift life-size Teddy Bear installation, offering the perfect photo opportunity for visitors. This enchanting display is part of the mall's Gifting Promotion Campaign. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Ongoing until February 28**

06 Musical harmony

Indian Music Experience Museum and NalandaWay Foundation present a special evening of music and poetry celebrating unity, love, and nature. Featuring works from Basavanna, Tagore, Bob Dylan, and more, this soulful performance by the Chennai Children's Choir is not to be missed. **Where: Indian Music Experience; When: February 16, 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm**

V DAY SPECIAL

B'luru catches Valentine fever as rose sales soar

Flower demand surges as IFAB sees 5–6 lakh sold daily, with prices nearly doubling; festive trade is set to generate ₹4.80 crore in just six days

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The red rose is in high demand, with Karnataka's supply reaching cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram

With Valentine's Day approaching, the demand for roses has surged over the past two days. The International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB) in Hebbal has been witnessing sales of approximately 5-6 lakh roses per day, and this trend is expected to continue until Friday.

The red rose, traditionally exchanged as a symbol of love, has seen the highest demand. Roses from Karnataka are not only fulfilling local needs but are also being shipped to major cities like New Delhi, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, and Chennai. In just six days, the flower trade is expected to generate a revenue of around ₹4.80 crore.

Sources said that compared to last year when a single rose was priced at ₹6 or ₹7, prices have nearly doubled this year. Additionally, the overall volume of sales has increased due to a better flower yield, significantly boosting the local flower market. Since Valentine's Day falls on a Friday this year, flower vendors anticipate strong sales with no interruptions. If the occasion had landed on a public holiday, demand might have been lower. M Vishwanath, Managing Director of IFAB, attributed the boost in flower sales to additional factors, stating, "The ongoing wedding season and housewarming ceremonies have further contributed to the rising demand for flowers."

> **"The ongoing wedding season and housewarming ceremonies have further contributed to the rising demand for flowers** M Vishwanath, Managing Director, IFAB

Prices and market trends

The wholesale price for a single red rose currently ranges between ₹12 to ₹14, while retail prices have already touched ₹20 per flower. At IFAB, approximately 40 lakh roses were sold on Thursday alone, contributing to the anticipated ₹4.80 crore turnover in just six days, driven by strong festive demand and bulk purchases.

Previous year, Bengaluru exported around 40 lakh roses to countries including the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Gulf nations. This year, the highest demand for red roses came from Malaysia and Singapore. However, exporters note that international shipments for Valentine's Day may be lower this year. Apart from flowers, chocolates and various gift items are also witnessing high demand, with strong sales recorded across markets.

Eco-friendly bouquet tags aim to cut V-Day floral waste

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With Valentine's Day around the corner, a new initiative is taking shape to tackle an often-overlooked environmental issue: waste from flower bouquets. Environmental group Beautiful Bharat has collaborated with the India Florists Association (IFA) and the Growers' Flower Council of India to promote sustainable practices that reduce the environmental burden caused by floral waste. Their message is clear: "Flowers are meant to bring joy to the recipient, not cause distress to the planet."

Since 2017, Beautiful Bharat has been working to minimise floral waste, particularly around Valentine's Day. This year, they are expanding their efforts by involving key players in the floral industry. Mr Srikant Kanoi, Vice President of IFA, who is leading this campaign among florists, expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, "It is an honour to drive a ground-breaking sustainability initiative on Valentine's Day, encouraging florists and consumers to adopt eco-friendly practices while celebrating love."

A major step forward in this effort is the introduction of bouquet tags with disposal instructions printed on the back. These tags aim to promote proper waste segregation and prevent bouquets from ending up in landfills as mixed waste.

One of the primary concerns raised is the excessive use of plastic and non-recyclable materials in bouquet packaging. Beautiful Bharat's founder, Odette Katrak, emphasised the importance of reducing such waste. "We are introducing the concept of bouquets that care for our planet. The first step is eliminating banned materials such as plastic, foil, and non-woven polypropylene (NWPP) sheets. Instead, we encourage the use of paper, newspaper, or brown paper. However, the best option is zero waste, no wrapping at all, just a satin ribbon or a jute knot. Cloth and jute wraps can also be great alternatives, or one can simply gift flowers in a vase."

Beyond packaging, the group is also focusing on proper disposal. "Packaging should go into dry waste, while flowers belong in wet waste. With the introduction of bouquet tags and support from the IFA, we can now make this information easily accessible to consumers," Katrak said.

> **A key concern is the widespread and excessive use of plastic and non-recyclable materials in bouquet packaging**

She added, "Many people struggle with how to dispose of bouquets properly. To address this, we introduced bouquet tags with clear waste segregation guidelines. The Indian Florists Association is now implementing this across its network, with Ibbani Flowers in Bangalore leading the way. This initiative promotes responsible disposal, reduces landfill waste, and helps combat climate change."

Man dies after being pushed out of moving train near Yelahanka

An unidentified passenger was pushed to his death from a moving train between Yelahanka and Gauribidanur railway stations. The incident occurred last night on a train traveling from Yesvantpur to Bidar and is being investigated by Yesvantpur Railway Police. According to reports, the victim was seated in the toilet passage when a minor dispute broke out after another passenger accidentally touched his foot. The argument quickly escalated into a physical fight, with two men allegedly attacking the victim. In a horrifying turn of events, the assailants pushed him out of the moving train, leading to his death.

The railway police were alerted about the incident but were unable to locate the body during their initial search due to darkness. However, upon resuming the search the following morning, officers found the victim's body near the tracks.

Yesvantpur Railway Police have arrested two individuals, identified as a painter and a gardener, in connection with the crime and further investigation is underway.

Man beaten to death over theft allegation

A case of mistaken identity led to the brutal murder of a puncture shop owner in HSR Layout. The victim, identified as Nurulla, was attacked by two men who accused him of theft. The incident, which occurred on February 2, came to light much later.

Nurulla, a resident of Mangammanapally, who used to run a puncture shop had gone for tea with his helper Manikanta on Hosur Road around 11.30 pm. However, as tea was unavailable, they left and noticed a few discarded tires in a vacant lot nearby.

As they were about to take the tires, two men in the area confronted them, suspecting them to be thieves. Despite Nurulla and Manikanta explaining that they were merely picking up abandoned tires, the men refused to believe them. A heated argument broke out, which soon escalated into violence. The attackers, identified as Prakash (32) and Kumar Gowda (35), assaulted Nurulla and Manikanta with an iron rod before fleeing the scene.

Nurulla suffered severe head injuries. Manikanta immediately called for help, and friends rushed him to NIMHANS for first aid before shifting him to Victoria Hospital. Despite medical efforts, Nurulla succumbed to his injuries on February 11. Following an investigation, HSR Layout police arrested Prakash and Kumar Gowda.

CRIME FILES

Man injured in clash over old dispute

A violent altercation erupted in Byadarahalli over an old dispute, leaving one person injured and hospitalised. The incident occurred when a group had gathered to resolve past tensions but ended in a fresh clash. Jayant, a resident of Badarekallu, was previously in a quarrel with Vini, Chikku, and Nandish from Ratna Nagar. During the earlier fight, Jayant had reportedly attacked Nandish with a long knife. But, no complaint was filed at the time.

Days later, in an attempt to settle the dispute, Nandish and his friends arranged a meeting with Jayant at Ullala Main Road. However, instead of a peaceful resolution, an argument broke out between the two groups, leading to a violent brawl. During the scuffle, Jayant attempted to attack the trio with his knife. But, the weapon was snatched from him, and he was struck twice. He sustained injuries on his hands and was rushed to a hospital for treatment.

ACP's wife alleges harassment, death threats

A police complaint has been filed by the wife of ACP of South East division, alleging harassment, verbal and physical abuse, and an attempt on her life by her husband, his alleged partner, and his mother.

According to the complaint, the woman, who has been serving as a DYSP since 2014, noticed behavioral changes in her husband after he joined the Karnataka Police Academy in 2022. She discovered that he was receiving frequent calls from a woman, leading to conflicts in their marriage. Despite her concerns, the relationship between her husband and the woman continued, causing emotional distress.

The situation escalated when she moved to Mysuru to be with her husband, but he continued to ignore her calls and verbally abuse her. Matters worsened when she approached her in-laws for support, and her mother-in-law allegedly verbally abused her and attempted to set her on fire by pouring oil on her. She managed to escape and sought medical treatment. Despite promises from her husband to sever ties with the woman, the relationship persisted. When the complainant confronted the woman, she was allegedly assaulted and threatened with false cases and harm to her family. On February 6, the complainant was attacked. – BMB

Metro fares: Partially fixed, no rollback

In response to strong public opposition, BMRCL has opted for a partial adjustment in Metro fares rather than a complete rollback. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had directed the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to reconsider its pricing. In response, BMRCL has announced a partial rollback, reducing fares by up to 30% only on routes where the increase had exceeded 70%.

Reduction only in areas where the hike exceeded 70%

However, the minimum fare of Rs 10 and the maximum fare of Rs 90 will remain unchanged, clarified BMRCL Managing Director S. Maheshwar Rao. Speaking at a press conference at the BMRCL headquarters on Thursday, he stated, "There is no overall revision in metro fares. We have only reduced fares on certain stages where the hike was above 70%. This decision will benefit around 2.5 lakh commuters. The revised fares will be applicable from February 14."

Justification for fare hike

Rao defended the increase, citing Metro Rail Act Section 37, which allows fare revision. He stated, "BMRCL is committed to public interest, but metro expansion and maintenance require substantial investment. Since 2017, we have not raised fares, and this revision was necessary due to rising operational costs." –BMB

BM Food & Night Life

Advertorial Promotional Feature

V-Day bites and what's so special about them

Named after Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, passion and procreation, here are five foods that have aphrodisiac quality.

Oysters:

Oysters probably rank at the top amongst the best aphrodisiacs one can have! They are rich in zinc, which is known to increase sperm count and testosterone levels, the hormone responsible for increased sex drives in both sexes. They are also rich in magnesium which also plays a similar role.

Wine

Not only does wine make you look younger but also keeps your skin glowing and amps up your sex appeal. It is said that alcohol, in acceptable amounts, tends to increase your desires. Wines contain ethanol which stimulates the hypothalamus, a part of the brain that's responsible for regulating body functions!

Saffron

Saffron or kesar is an Indian kitchen must-have with its uses ranging from food to medicinal properties. It is also used in creams to promote healthy skin! It also reduces stress, helps in treating depression and largely enhances a person's mood. Adding a pinch of it in the milk will help you relax.

Pomegranate

Leaving aside how messy and tiresome consuming pomegranate is, it is also responsible to elevate one's mood. In ancient times, the Greeks linked the fruit to increasing desire. – Femina

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Anganwadi workers protest for wage hike, job recognition

Childcare workers from across Karnataka gather at Freedom Park, demanding official employee status, higher honorarium and retirement perks

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Protestors demanded Rs 15,000 honorarium for workers, Rs 10.000 for assistants, Rs 2 lakh retirement benefit, and medical aid

Hundreds of Anganwadi workers from across Karnataka gathered at Freedom Park under the leadership of the Karnataka State Joint Anganwadi Workers Association, affiliated with the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), demanding the fulfilment of their various demands in the upcoming 2025-26 state budget.

The protesters urged the government to implement the Supreme Court's order recognising Anganwadi workers as 'C' and 'D' group employees and to pay gratuity to all retired workers and assistants. They also called for an increase in honorarium to Rs 15,000 for workers and Rs 10,000 for assistants, a Rs 2 lakh retirement benefit, and medical aid for serious illnesses.

AIUTUC State President, K Somashekhar criticised both the BJP and Congress governments, accusing them of prioritising corporate interests over workers' welfare. He pointed out that despite the rising cost of living, the government has failed to increase wages, making it difficult for workers to make ends meet. He urged Anganwadi workers to stay united and fight against what he described as anti-labour policies.

Karnataka State Joint Anganwadi Workers Association's State President, K Somashekhar Yadagir stressed the need for the government to immediately meet some of their demands in the upcoming budget. He highlighted the contributions of Anganwadi workers and helpers, who have been serving the country for the past 50 years, yet continue to be neglected.

State Secretary, M Umadevi expressed frustration over the disparity in wage hikes, pointing out that while legislators and MPs frequently increase their salaries, they ignore the hardworking women who provide essential services to society. She noted that both the Supreme Court and international labour organisations have emphasised the need for regularising Anganwadi workers, but successive governments have failed to act.

> **"Workers' union leaders criticise frequent pay hikes for legislators while neglect of women providing essential services continues**

Rama TC, National President of the Steam Workers Federation of India (SWFI), called for unity among workers to resist what he described as the government's attempts to divide them. ASHA Workers Association's State Secretary, D Nagalakshmi highlighted the irony that while Anganwadi workers implement government welfare schemes, they are denied basic benefits.

Women and Child Development Department Director Raghavendra received the memorandum from the protesting workers and assured them that discussions were ongoing regarding wage hikes, gratuity, and worker classification. He stated that the issues would be addressed at the department level to find suitable solutions. Based on this assurance, the protest was withdrawn. However, the workers warned that if their demands were not met in the state budget, they would launch an intensified agitation.

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Road woes

OTC Road

SP Road and OTC Road have been dug up for pipe-laying work for the past two months, but with little progress, shop owners are facing severe losses. With no vehicle access, customers are unable to enter, diverting business worth lakhs to other areas.

Road blockage

Jayanagar

The footpath is blocked near Cool Joint, 30th Cross, Jayanagar 4th Block, causing inconvenience to pedestrians. Authorities urged to take action.

Bengaluru West records highest number of complaints

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

online system. We have brought in Sakala service to ensure timely and speedy resolution of these cases. These aspects have led to a precise monitoring system, unlike in the past when cases were registered manually. This has led to a higher number of cases being reflected in the system," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forest, BBMP.

Notably, BBMP has increased the number of canopy management teams over the last few years. BBMP has 15 teams (each with 8 members) in 2020. This was expanded to 28 teams at a total cost of Rs 11.7 crore in 2023, followed by 30 teams currently.

"We have 30 teams that are attending to these complaints within the stipulated time of 45 days. We also bring in two rapid response teams during monsoon season due to an increase in the number of cases," added Swamy.

Mismanaged

However, city-based experts say the primary reason behind the increase is the rapid development of urban infrastructure coupled with mismanagement of avenue trees. Most of the cases of trees and dead branches falling in the city are due to weakened root systems of the avenue trees. "Poor urban planning is the biggest reason behind the high number of canopy management cases. While we are widening roads and constructing mass transit systems, not much attention is being given to avenue trees. Most of the trees in the city are concretised up to their trunks, leaving them without sufficient water and nutrients, leading to root damage. There is a lack of awareness about tree physiology among engineers who are carrying out infrastructure development work. Unless this aspect is improved, cases of branches falling and trees uprooting will continue," said a city-based tree activist.

February feels too hot in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the maritime continent and peninsular India would compete for available moisture, signaling potential shifts in rainfall patterns.

Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), explained that light to moderate easterly and east-southeasterly winds are currently prevailing over Karnataka at lower atmospheric levels. As a result, dry weather is likely to continue across the state, with fog or mist expected in some interior regions.

Minimum temperatures across Karnataka vary, with Coastal Karnataka recording temperatures between 19-21°C. In North Interior Karnataka, cities such as Belagavi, Vijayapura, Dharwad, Gadag, and Haveri are experiencing temperatures between 15-17°C, while Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Koppal have slightly higher temperatures ranging from 18-21°C. In South Interior Karnataka, cooler temperatures of 11-14°C have been recorded in Agumbe, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Davangere, Hassan, Chintamani, Mandya, Madikeri, and Mysuru, whereas Bengaluru, Chitradurga, and Shivamogga are seeing minimum temperatures of 15-17°C.

In the past 24 hours, Vijayapura saw a notable drop in minimum temperature by 2.5°C, while Agumbe recorded a sharp 4.5°C rise in maximum temperature. No major temperature changes were observed in Coastal Karnataka and other regions of North and South Interior Karnataka. Maximum temperatures remain above normal in several areas, with Honnavar and Karwar in Coastal Karnataka experiencing higher-than-usual temperatures. In North Interior Karnataka, temperatures are appreciably above normal in Bagalkot, Gadag, and Kalaburagi, while Belagavi, Bidar, Vijayapura, Dharwad, and Koppal are also witnessing above-normal temperatures. Similarly, in South Interior Karnataka, Hassan is experiencing appreciably higher temperatures, while Bengaluru, Chitradurga, Chintamani, and Mysuru are recording above-normal temperatures as well.

Outlook for Bengaluru

In Bengaluru, clear skies are expected to continue, with fog or mist likely in certain areas during early morning hours. The temperature forecast indicates a maximum of 34°C and a minimum of 16°C, reinforcing concerns of an early onset of summer in the city. With rising temperatures and increasing day-night variations, Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka could experience a prolonged transition from winter to summer, impacting both health and daily life.

HC puts out procedure to change name in birth register

The High Court has proposed to the Legislature to consider modifying the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, to allow name changes in birth registers after initial entry.

Justice NS Sanjay Gowda, in his single-judge ruling, stated, "It is common practice in our country that a person decides to give himself a new name or that a parent decides to change the name though he has already been given a name. In fact, it is a practice in our country that multiple names are given, but one name is entered in the records and this, at times, creates confusion regarding the identity of the person."

The court further noted, "The Legislature would have to take a view on this and ensure that the citizens are not put to any hardship whenever they desire to change their names and evolve a procedure where the records of that particular person are also changed simultaneously in all the public records or at least in the relevant records."

Noting the Law Commission of Karnataka's 24th Report from July 20, 2013 regarding name changes, the court stated, "It would therefore be appropriate for the Legislature to take necessary action pursuant to the recommendation of the Law Commission in its 24th report."

The court acknowledged that without specific legislation governing

name changes, parents cannot alter names already registered in birth records until the Legislature establishes relevant laws. The court outlined specific procedures for name changes, including:

- Parents must submit sworn affidavits confirming the name change
- Authorities must verify parental identity before updating registers
- Records must show both original and new names with appropriate remarks
- Similar procedures apply to adults requesting name changes

The court declared, "Thus, until the appropriate provisions are made under the Rules by the State in this regard, the concerned authorities are directed to follow the aforementioned procedures and permit the change of name in the Register of Births and Deaths." It further stated "Since the date of birth or the date of death and other details would remain unchanged, there can be no impediment or reason to prevent the change of name." The ruling came whilst allowing a minor's petition, through his guardian, challenging the Registrar of Births' refusal to change his name.

The court ordered, "The respondent authority is hereby directed to change the name of the petitioner as Shrijith Bhat in the Register of Births as against the originally registered name Adhrith Bhat. A necessary endorsement shall be made in the Register of Births and also in the Birth Certificate that the original name of Adhrith Bhat was changed to Shrijith Bhat, as requested in the application dated November 4, 2023 and issue a fresh Birth Certificate accordingly."

– Rachana Ramesh

Peak B'luru distractions behind the wheel

Woman using laptop as she was driving underlines dangers of multitasking on the road

Jam alert: Motorists heading to airport and for aero show stranded in a traffic jam near Yelahanka airforce station on Thursday

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After the traffic police caught a woman using her laptop while driving, it has emerged that the city has a problem of dangerous distracted driving. Reports of motorists balancing their laptops on the dashboard or steering wheel while navigating the city's chaotic roads has come as yet another headache for traffic police.

The rampant use of mobile phones while driving remains a major concern for road safety, with traffic police recording 82,796 cases of mobile phone usage while driving in 2024, up from 61,306 in 2023. The traffic police have intensified their crackdown on violators, emphasising the risks associated with distracted driving.

> **A driver's full concentration should be on the road; work should be done at home or offices. Around 40% accidents caused due to phone usage**
>
> –Traffic police official

Traffic officials highlight that using a mobile phone while driving significantly increases the chances of accidents. Despite strict enforcement and awareness campaigns, motorists continue to flout the rules.

The issue was back in the spotlight after the woman's laptop usage video went viral. Police tracked her down issued a Rs 1,000 fine. The police identified her by noting the car's licence plate from the footage. The matter gained further attention when the DCP of North Traffic, Bengaluru, shared the video on social media platform X.

The woman is said to have told traffic police officials that she needed to log in to work as the deadline was approaching, and anticipating a delayed arrival home, she decided to turn on her laptop.

DCP Traffic North Siri Gowri DR took to X to say, "Work from home, not from car while driving." In response to the post, another user shared a similar incident, reporting a person multitasking by using a laptop while driving near Manyata Tech Park on February 7 around 9 am.

Traffic officials explained that the dangers of laptop use while driving are manifold. Unlike mobiles, which can be operated with one hand, laptops require both hands and significant visual attention, effectively blinding the driver to their surroundings. The larger screen size and complex tasks performed on laptops further exacerbate the problem, leading to longer periods of inattention and delayed reaction times.

The rise of remote work has blurred the lines between professional and personal time, with many feeling pressured to remain productive even during their commute. While even a few seconds of distraction can prove fatal, operating a laptop increases the risk of accidents exponentially. Traffic officials said, "A driver's full concentration should be on the road; work should be done at home or in the office," officials stated, highlighting that around 40% of accidents are caused by mobile phone usage.

Traffic police officials note that this form of distracted driving is even harder to detect than mobile phone use. While holding a phone to the ear or texting is visibly evident, a laptop balanced on the passenger seat or dashboard often goes unnoticed until an accident occurs or someone captures it on camera.

Beyond office workers, gig economy workers, including food delivery riders and cab drivers, also feel compelled to multitask. Managing multiple app-based platforms, accepting rides, or monitoring earnings on a laptop screen while navigating city roads is not only irresponsible but also endangers passengers, pedestrians, and fellow motorists.

Case against Arnab Goswami quashed

The High Court granted a petition by Republic TV's Chief Editor Arnab Goswami on Thursday, nullifying the FIR filed against him over allegations of disseminating false information about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Justice M Nagaprasanna declared that the petition was approved and the case against Goswami, filed charges under Section 505 (2) of Indian Penal Code, which addresses statements that generate or foster enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes, stands quashed.

In its interim stay order, the court had stated, "It is ununderstandable as to how the section is applicable to its remotest sense in the case at hand. Therefore it is a reckless registration of crime by respondent no 2. If such crime are permitted to continue it will amount to abuse of the process of law. There shall be an interim order of stay of all further investigation till the next date of hearing, January 16, 2025."

The FIR was registered following a complaint by a Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee official. The complaint alleged that on March 27 last year, at 7.15 pm, Republic TV Kannada channel broadcast news claiming that an ambulance was delayed due to traffic restrictions on M G Road in Bengaluru for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's convoy. The complainant pointed out that the Chief Minister was actually in Mysuru at the time. **BMB**

Rajat Patidar to lead RCB in IPL

India batter Rajat Patidar has been appointed captain of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the upcoming IPL 2025, starting on March 21.

RCB made this announcement at an event in Bengaluru on Thursday, with Patidar, director of cricket Mo Bobat, and head coach Andy Flower in attendance.

Patidar will replace former South African batter Faf du Plessis, who captained the side from 2022 to 2024 but was not retained in last year's IPL mega auction.

The right-hander was one of the three players retained by the franchise along with former India captain Virat Kohli and pacer Yash Dayal. It will be his first leadership role in the IPL while on the domestic level, he captained his state Madhya Pradesh in the 2024-25 seasons of the 20-over Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The 31-year-old has played three seasons for the franchise since joining RCB in 2021.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hari Prasath Saravana Muthusamy alias Hari Prasath K S alias Hari Prasath Kalyana Sundaram Saravana Muthusamy S/o Saravana Muthusamy R/o: Ga 132, Silappathikaram Street, Ganesh nagar, Selaiyur, Kanchipuram -600073, changed my name to Hari Prasath for all purposes.

I, Suresh Sachdeva S/o Rustam Chand Sachdeva, R/o 13291, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, SH35, Gunjur Village, Varthur, Bengaluru-560087 have changed my name from Suresh Sachdeva to Suresh Kumar Sachdeva for all purposes by an affidavit sworn before A.M.Rajasekar Public Notary dated 11-02-2025

I, Niraj Pravin Radhanpura S/o Praveen. N. Radhanpura R/o Elegant Embassy Apartment - Block - A 411, Thurahalli Main Road, Jayanagar Housing Society Layout, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru - 560061 Have Changed My Name to Neeraj Radhanpura

I, Ajay Kizekekappa Muralidharan S/o Muralidharan K N R/o 9, Rose Residency, Pragathi, 2nd Cross, Manoryanapalya, Sulthanpalya, Rt Nagar, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Ajay Kizekekarra Muralidharan for all purposes.

I, NEHA KUMARI W/o Shramik Manjunath R/O B3-219 Gokulam Complex Doddakallasandra Kanakapura Main Road Bengaluru -560062.I have changed my name to NEHA vide affidavit dated: 12/02/2025 before notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, Mridula Chaturvedi, W/o Manish Shoukla, R/o Manjunath Residency, building no. 9/1, fourth floor, flat 4C, golf course Road, kodihalli indiranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560008, Have Change My Name To Mridula Chaturvedi Shoukla

I, Nishant Bam Bam Kumar Baranwal S/o Bam Bam Kumar R/o A-105, A-Block, Alpine Eco Apartments, Doddanekkundi Post, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name to Nishant Baranwal Somy for all purposes.

I, Dharitri W/o Satish R/o # 17, 5th Cross, New Balaji Layout, Vajarahalli, Thalaghattapura Bangalore - 560109 have changed my name to Dharitri satish for all purposes

I, HARSHITA VENKATASWAMY SARAKKI, Residing at No 32/2, 35th Main Road, 8th Cross, J P Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078, Have changed my name to HARSHITHA V S , vide affidavit dated 13/02/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Sanjeevkumar R Patil R/o # 3414/18 KRS, Agrahara Samanvya Road Kunigal Town, Tumakuru - 572130 have changed my minor Daughter name from Shreeya SanjeevKumar Patil to Shreeya for all purposes.

I, CHANDRAKALA ANJANAPPA, Residing at No 32/2, 35th Main Road, 8th Cross, J P Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078, Have changed my name to CHANDRAKALA , vide affidavit dated 13/02/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I Rasheeda W/O, Shameer R/o No 23/1 Saraswathi Street 2nd Cross Subbanapalya Banaswadi Main Road M S Nagar Blr-560033 have changed my name to Rasheeda Shameer.

I Saritha Susil Kumar W/O, Susil Kumar Mangalchand R/o No 1345, Maharaja Road, Santhosh Nivas, Robertsonpet, Kgf (kolar) - 563122. Karnataka have changed my name to Sarita Bantia.

I Venkatehsa Murthy S/o Dasappa Srirama R/o 449/A/11/1 Gokula 1st Stage 2nd Phase Yeshwanthpura have changed my name to Venkatesh Murthy S for all purposes.

I THANVEER PASHA S/o Syed Aleemulla R/o No 3000 Elepete Doddaballapura Bangalore Rural 561203 have changed my name to TANVEER PASHA for all Purposes

I, Syed Yusuf Jalal R/a #42,2ndmain Vivekananda ColonyKnanakpura road BSK Blor-560078. Have changed my name to Syed Yousuf Jalal Dt:21.01.2025. Nory:B.G.Sriram

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WANTED DEALERS ACROSS KARNATAKA

Lights, camera, protest? BIFFes picks leave filmmakers fuming

Kannada directors slam BIFFes selection, alleging bias, unfair process, and lack of transparency; KFDA threatens to protest over exclusion from key discussions

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy (KCA) is gearing up to organise the 16th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) from March 1. The KCA has constituted panels to select the best Kannada movies for screening during the BIFFes, but the selection of Kannada movies has invited criticism from directors and actors. Kannada Film Directors Association has even threatened to stage a protest at the BIFFes inaugural function if the KCA failed to redress their grievances.

Allegedly, the authorities had formed three panels to select the 11 best Kannada movies among 140 Kannada movies for screening during the BIFFes. The movies selected for screening are Mikka Bannada Hakki, Parajya, Belli Hoo, Kere Bete, Dada Searada Doni, Anthima Yatre, Lacchi, Maryade Prashne, Aarata, Venkya, and My Hero. The Tulu movies are Daskath and Pidayi. Kaangath Mood is a Kodava movie.

The Kannada movie Belli Hoo, directed by Sebastian David, has been selected for screening in Kannada and India sections. It is alleged that the panel members (India section) did not watch the movie Belli Hoo. "I have led the panel (India section) to select movies. I did not watch the Kannada movie Belli Hoo. I enquired with the authorities about the allegations of corruption in the selection of movies for screening, but the authorities did not answer my query," said Joe Simon, a veteran Director.

Kannada film Belli Hoo is set for BIFFes screening, but panelists allegedly skipped watching it

Many directors have objected to the selection of particular movies for screening. "My movie Balya was one among the 140 movies. It is about parents who need to spend quality time with their children. My movie conveys a message to the parents and the children. I am disappointed with the selection panel of the Kannada section," said Raju S, Director of the Kannada movie Balya.

He said that he paid the fees for three panels to watch his movie, but other panel members did not watch his movie. "Why should they collect fees if they have no time to watch movies?" he asked.

Expressing shock and disappointment at the failure of the Kannada movie Kaumudi to make into the list of movies for screening in the Kannada section, Akshita Panadavapura said the movie sheds some light on some rituals and traditions that pose a danger to women in rural areas in Karnataka. "I have no grouse against those Kannada movies selected for screening, but I am in a dilemma as to why our movie was not selected for screening," said Akshita Pandavapura, Actress.

Protest

Kannada Films Directors' Association (KFDA) president NRK Vishwanath said the KCA did not bother to invite KFDA members to the meetings organised to discuss the BIFFest. "We wrote letters to the Chief Minister and other higher authorities explaining how the KCA has been ill-treating the KFDA.

Don't waste money

Nagathihalli Chandrasekhar, a veteran movie Director and former chairman of the KCA said that he organised the BIFFes in 2019 with a budget of Rs 3 crore. "I took care to not waste taxpayers' money. I ensured no unnecessary spending of money. I came to know the state government allocated Rs 9 crore for the 16th edition of the BIFFes. My suggestion to the KCA chairman and the government is to construct a multiplex theatre at the KCA premises to avoid unnecessarily spending money during the BIFFes. The multiplex with four or five screens can be used for screening movies during film festivals. The KCA can organise four film festivals a year. It can be used for screening low-budget movies too," he said.

B'luru riots: SC denies bail to accused

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined bail to various persons accused in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) case in connection with the 2020 Bengaluru Riots by refusing to interfere with the ongoing National Investigation Agency probe.

However, noting that there has been an inordinate delay in the commencement of trial in the matter due to a lack of special UAPA courts in Karnataka, a Bench of Justices BV Nagarathana and SC Sharma directed the Karnataka government to set up more such courts.

"The Registrar General of the High Court of Karnataka in consultation with the State government and after obtaining instruction from the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court set-up special courts for UAPA cases registered either by the State Government or the National Investigation Agency", the Court noted in its orders.

The Court has directed that the same shall be done within a period of three months. —ANI

IN BRIEF

Being listed as prosecution witness won't absolve accused of guilt: HC

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The High Court has ruled that a person accused of a crime cannot serve as a prosecution witness, and admitted guilt cannot be evaded merely by being listed as a witness by the prosecution.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued this ruling whilst accepting a petition by S Muthaiah, an accused in a 2011 iron ore illegal transport case. The petition challenged a trial court's dismissal of his application under Section 319 CrPC, which sought to include 23 forest officials, currently listed as prosecution witnesses, as accused parties.

Drawing from various legal precedents, the court emphasised that an accused person cannot act as a prosecution witness, and admitted guilt cannot be circumvented simply by being designated as a witness. The court stated that one cannot maintain a position as a prosecution witness if they are particeps criminis, except when permitted by law. The trial court, through its order dated January 6, had dismissed the application, stating there was no basis to include them as accused since they weren't deemed hostile witnesses.

The high court observed that the trial court rejected the plea without initiating Section 319 CrPC proceedings. The case involved blank permits being signed by forest officials, who admitted this in their Section 164 CrPC statements. These permits were subsequently used for illegal iron ore transportation by accused persons 1 to 5. The officials also face departmental enquiry and charge sheets. The court clarified that an accomplice-witness can be reclassified as an accused through proper legal procedures. Despite relevant authorities being presented, the trial court rejected the application without initiating the necessary process or hearing the accused regarding such reclassification.

The petitioner contended that the named witnesses were accomplices who shouldn't testify against him, having admitted to signing blank permits for the accused. The CBI opposed this, arguing that an accused cannot demand others be made co-accused, and that such actions would be initiated by the prosecution if necessary.

The bench criticised the trial court's reasoning about witnesses not seeking pardon, explaining that only accused persons can seek pardon to become approvers. The court noted that these witnesses were crime participants, having admitted to signing blank documents, making them accomplices. Partially allowing the petition, the court directed the trial court to reconsider the Section 319 CrPC application according to law, stating that the original application warranted proper consideration following legal procedures.

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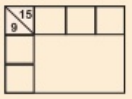
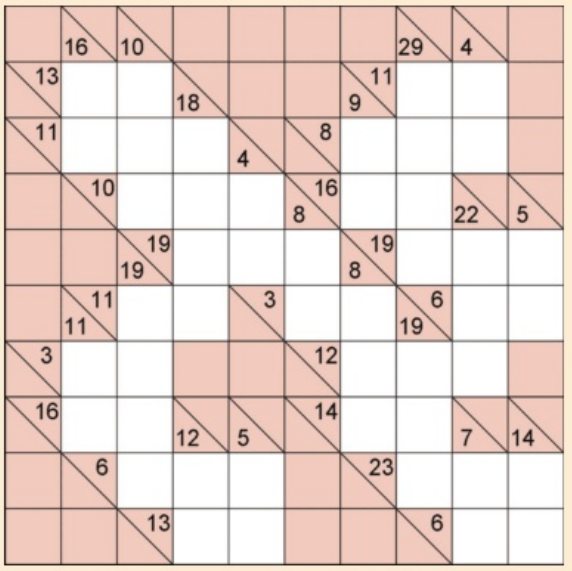
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

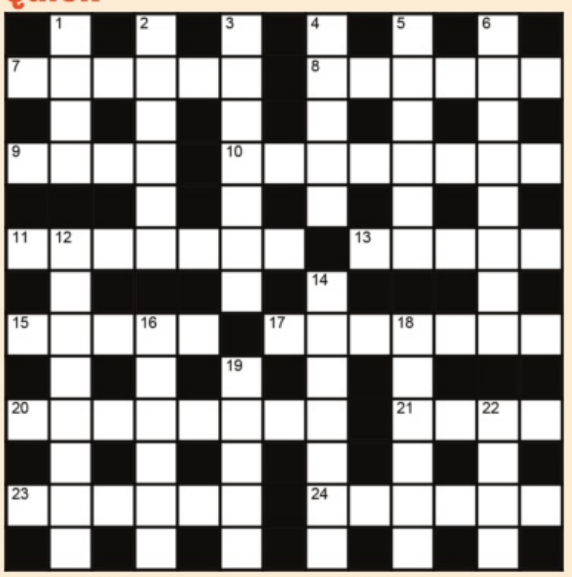


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 European monarchy (6)
8 P in BBMP (6)
9 Biblical garden (4)
10 Putting the fizz into mineral water (8)
11 Fell down in drops? (7)
13 Assail (5)
15 Counterfoil of a ticket (5)
17 Excessive bureaucracy (3,4)
20 Scenery for a film (5,3)
21 Gujarat's ___ of Kutch (4)
23 Maharashtra city (6)
24 Lazy sort of industrial action? (2-4)

DOWN

1 Keep in hand (4)
2 A mint-like labiate plant (6)
3 Finds, ascertains or discovers? (7)
4 Rebuff (5)
5 Dress (6)
6 Superficial, not lasting (4-4)
12 Logical (8)
14 Reserve funds (4,3)
16 Fetches (6)
18 Saintly lady of Kolkata, Mother ___ (6)
19 Computer codes, in short? (5)
22 In brief, sergeants and corporals (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS C

GS PRD NJI'T EFQBJGI GT OG-KQBP, PRD URI'T DIUEWOTJIU GT LEBB EIRDCH.

Linemaro

Is it ok if I get a tattoo with your name?

Mindchow

Why I came here, I know not; where I shall go it is useless to inquire -- in the midst of myriads of the living and the dead worlds, stars, systems, infinity, why should I be anxious about an atom?

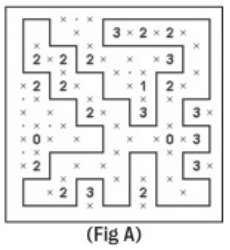
Joke of the day

An economist is someone who gets rich explaining to others why they are poor

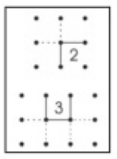
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

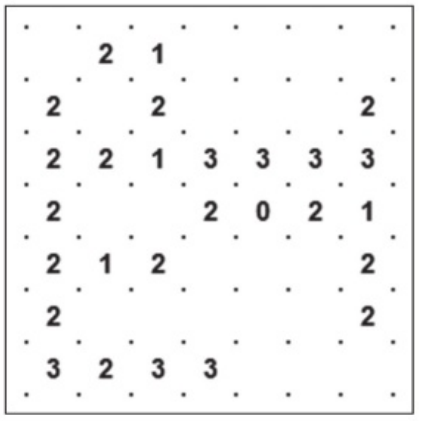


(Fig B) Not Allowed

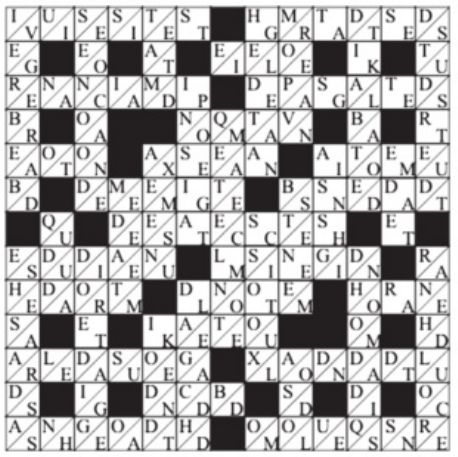
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



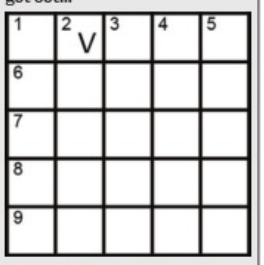
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Salvo; 6 I fret;
7 Mr Ice; 8 Tapir;
9 Set us

DOWN

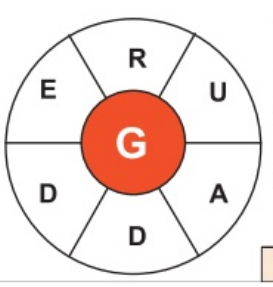
1 Oscar; 2 True V;
3 Feria; 4 It mil;
5 Pests

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?

B
C
E
H
?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				9				
7		5	2		1	3		8
	4	1				5	7	
	2		7		4		5	
		8				9		
	7		9		5		4	
	1	6				7	8	
5		4	8		3	2		6
				1				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 18
4 5 8 9

Medium = 26
1 2 3 7

Hard = 21
2 2 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Collar is different. 2. Bow is smaller. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Chair is wider. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Skirt is longer.

Riddler

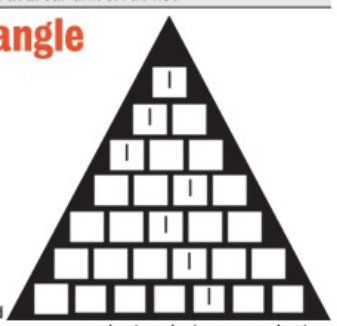
The following three (3) clues are the definitions of words that have been jumbled below and turned into anagrams. Your job is to correctly unravel the anagrams and then place them next to their proper definition. Good luck!

1. hanging cloth used as a blind.
2. a strong English ale.
3. destined or inevitable.

Jumbled anagrams:
1. nice rat 2. car unit 3. rub not

Alpha triangle

1 Pronoun
2 Not out
3 Charged particle
4 Enter (2,2)
5 Unpaid
6 Possessing
7 Being aware of



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I WOULD STRIKE THE FOUL BEAST, BUT IT MIGHT BE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES!
I SHALL IGNORE IT IN MY BEST PRE-FINISHING-SCHOOL MANNER!
popeye.com

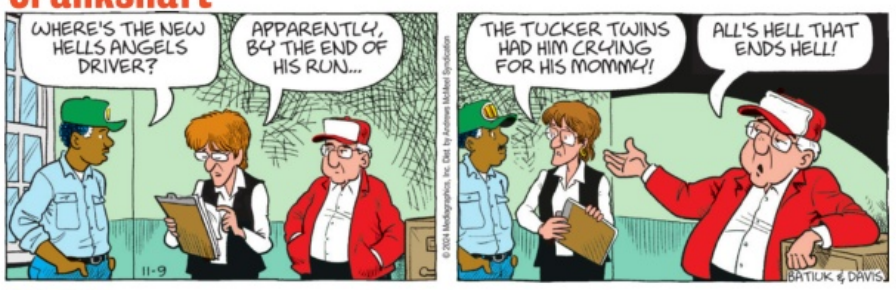
Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 11-9-24
Hi, I'm Kevin. I'll be reminding you why you decided not to have kids.
MENU
MENU
BIZARRO.COM ©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features

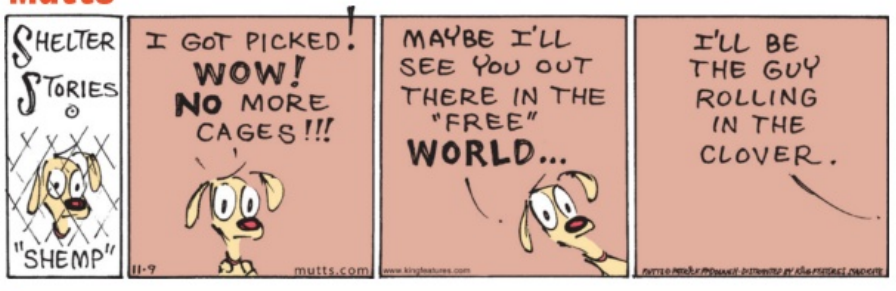
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


WHERE'S THE NEW HELLS ANGELS DRIVER?
APPARENTLY, BY THE END OF HIS RUN...
THE TUCKER TWINS HAD HIM CRYING FOR HIS MOMMY!
ALL'S HELL THAT ENDS HELL!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts


SHELTER STORIES
"SHEMP"
I GOT PICKED! WOW! NO MORE CAGES!!!
MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU OUT THERE IN THE "FREE" WORLD...
I'LL BE THE GUY ROLLING IN THE CLOVER.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Blessed by the positive Moon, you will enjoy good health and a sharp focus on your goals. Your performance at work will be commendable, earning appreciation from your boss and possibly leading to new responsibilities. Legal matters may bring favourable news. You are likely to gain control over opponents and business rivals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Negativity may cause incomplete tasks and frequent mood swings. Your patience will be tested, and minor mistakes could lead to confusion. Love birds may feel uncertain about their feelings, and unrealistic expectations could strain relationships. Take care of your parents' well-being, and students should focus on maintaining concentration.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today brings joy and recognition at work. Your hard work may be rewarded, elevating your social status. However, mental exhaustion from work pressure could leave you feeling drained. You may miss out on a family event due to workload. Fortunately, your parents' health will improve.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Your intellect will shine today, helping you recognise the value of knowledge and skills. Managing your temper will improve your efficiency. Financial stability may bring comfort, but be cautious when making new investments in assets. Spending on loved ones will bring joy. Love birds will cherish happy moments together.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The positive Moon will bring happiness and peace of mind. Your professional efficiency will be high, and support from subordinates will help in decision-making. Planning a new venture with siblings or through networking could boost business growth. Ensure you get enough rest to maintain your enthusiasm.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The positive Moon brings job satisfaction and the possibility of a short work-related trip or overseas travel. A visit to a religious place may help maintain inner peace. Guidance from elders will offer clarity regarding your goals and future direction.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
The Moon's negative influence may create a sense of burden and negativity. Rushing through tasks could lead to mistakes, slowing down your efficiency. Delays in projects may affect business progress. Seek expert advice before making major decisions to avoid setbacks.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The Moon's negative influence may lead to detachment from responsibilities. Impulsive spending on unnecessary items could create negativity at home or work. Stay alert to potential conspiracies from opponents or rivals. Carefully review all documents before signing to avoid complications.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A feeling of dullness and nervousness may affect your energy levels. Try to stay calm and avoid arrogance in conversations. Financial recoveries may face delays, and adventure trips should be avoided. Students should focus on in-depth study to achieve success.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The Moon's blessings bring good news from siblings and quality time with family and friends. Creativity will inspire you to renovate your home or office. Starting a new partnership with a family member could be beneficial in the near future. At work, subordinates will be supportive of project completion.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
With the Moon's blessings, you will enjoy harmony in both family and professional life. Politeness and cooperation will ensure smooth task completion. New sources of income may emerge, increasing your savings. You might also consider renovating your home or office.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by the positive Moon, you will feel good, and domestic harmony will bring happiness. An influential person may offer beneficial work-related opportunities. Your job performance will be strong, possibly leading to promotions or rewards. Disputes over inherited property may reach a resolution.

KIDZONE

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
1. hanging cloth used as a blind: Curtain,
2. a strong English ale: Burton &
3. destined or inevitable: Certain

BULL'S EYE
aged, ague, argue, argued, auger, drag, drudge, drug, egad, gear, grad, grade, graded, guard, GUARDED, rage, raged, urge, urged

SOLVE IN 1M
= (2÷4×8÷16×32)^1/3
= (1/2×1/2×32)^1/3
= (1/4×32)^1/3
= 2^3^(1/3) = 2

FAST FIVE

O	V	A	L	S
R	E	F	I	T
C	R	I	M	E
A	T	R	I	P
S	U	E	T	S

STRIKE OUT

S	H	E	A	T	H		M	O	U	S

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
M. Working downwards, add the numerical values of the first two letters together, and put the letter with this value in the next box down. Continue in this way down the diagram.

QUOTE UNCODE
If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough.

SUDOKU

8	3	2	5	9	7	1	6	4
7	6	5	2	4	1	3	9	8
9	4	1	3	6	8	5	7	2
1	2	9	7	8	4	6	5	3
4	5	8	1	3	6	9	2	7
6	7	3	9	2	5	8	4	1
3	1	6	4	5	2	7	8	9
5	9	4	8	7	3	2	1	6
2	8	7	6	1	9	4	3	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Ion, Go In, Owing, Owning, Knowing.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 8 − 4 + 5 = 18
Medium
7 + 2 x 3 − 1 = 26
Hard
2 \ 2 + 2 x 7 = 21

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # BAFTA presenters
Ahead of the BAFTA Film Awards 2025, the organisers on Thursday unveiled the list of the presenters, which includes Selena Gomez, Zoe Saldana, Jesse Eisenberg, Joe Alwyn, Isabella Rossellini and others

Perfect love language

For Nimrat, it is words of affirmation

Actress Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia shared her thoughts on Valentine's Day and shared that her ideal love language is words of affirmation. She believes that when a partner gives positive affirmations, it subconsciously helps in being more confident and alive.

The actress revealed that this year her Valentine's Day will be special. "This year, my Valentine's Day will be truly special as I spend it with some incredible individuals. It will be a Valentine's Day with a purpose—dedicated to meeting and sharing moments with underprivileged people who truly understand the essence of love," Nimrit told IANS.

She added: "The perfect love language for me would be words of affirmation. I am also mindful of my words when I communicate because I feel like words have a lasting impact.

"When your partner gives you positive affirmations, I feel like it subconsciously helps you be more confident, more spirited and more alive. Also, acts of service. I feel like kind gestures go a long way in any relationship."

> "Valentine's Day will be special as I spend it with some incredible individuals

Earlier this month, Nimrit talked about the stigma some actors associate with their television background. The actress embraces her small screen roots and said that there's no reason to feel ashamed of it.

The actress, who gained the spotlight with her work in 'Choti Sarrdaarni, said: "Many TV actors abandon their background like it's a thing to be hidden. There's no shame in the background that literally gave you the launchpad."

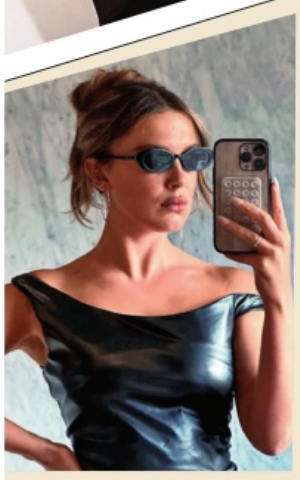
"I owe everything to television," she shares. The actress said that she will never abandon the identity that helped her gain the spotlight.

"It was my first avenue to become an actor and the platform that nurtured my passion for acting. It gave me the opportunity to reach where I am today. There's no reason to feel ashamed of it, and I will never abandon the identity that got me started."

The actress is all set to make her debut in movies with the Punjabi film "Shaunki Sardar".

—IANS

Millie & a few friends



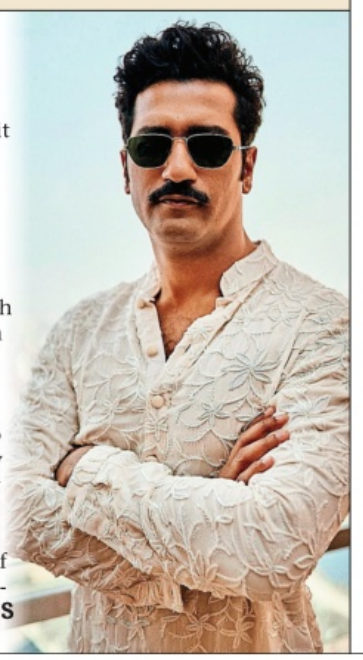
Hollywood actress Millie Bobby Brown isn't much of a social person. The actress has shared that she doesn't "have many friends".

The 'Stranger Things' actress was just 11 when she joined the Netflix series and she admitted growing up on set, where she was privately tutored has left her with a lack of social skills and struggling to relate to other people her own age, particularly because the COVID-19 pandemic left her further isolated from co-stars Finn Wolfhard, Noah Schnapp, Caleb McLaughlin, Gaten Matarazzo and Sadie Sink, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told the new issue of 'Vanity Fair' magazine, "I don't have many friends, because of who I am. I didn't go to school, so I don't have the best social skills when it comes to people my own age and friendships. I struggle with that quite a bit. I missed out on a few things. But I'm working through them".

—IANS

All about discipline



From putting on over 100 kilos to mastering horseback riding and sword fighting, Bollywood heartthrob Vicky Kaushal immersed himself fully in "Chhaava". He said that through this film he knows he can bring discipline into his life if he needs it in the future.

In the Laxman Utekar directorial, Vicky is seen playing the lionhearted Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who ascended the throne following his father's demise. For his role, the actor, who is fondly tagged as the National crush, pushed the envelope when it came to his physique and looks. However, Vicky still feels whatever he did seems less as the personality he is portraying is very strong.

Vicky told IANS: "If you're making a film on such a personality and you get an opportunity, whatever you do, it'll feel a little less. Because you can do your best, but I'm sure if we go to make Chhaava today, I'll try to do something else, I'll try to give something else because that's what it deserves." "... There's a lot of action, so there will be training for that."

—IANS

DP slays the ramp

Deepika Padukone has slowly been making a comeback to work after the birth of her baby girl Dua Padukone Singh. The actress left everyone stunned as she was the showstopper at Sabyasachi's 25th anniversary celebrations in Mumbai. And now, she walked the ramp for Cartier's 25th anniversary in Dubai. The actress looked drop-dead gorgeous in a black gown with exquisite jewellery and a sleek bun.

As she dropped these photos, the internet couldn't stop gushing. But of course, it's Ranveer Singh who is her biggest cheerleader and admirer. He swooned over his wife and wrote, "Wow. Dead." Meanwhile, Orry (Orhan Awatramani) dropped heart emojis. A video of her walking the ramp also was shared by a fan club on social media and netizens were in awe of her. A user commented, "THE HAIR ! THE MAKEUP ! THE OUTFIT !THE JEWELLERY! YOU LOOK SO GORGEOUS." A fan wrote, "You are so pretty omg! serving beauty, elegance and glow."

On the movie front, Deepika was last seen in an extended cameo in Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Again' and before that she had 'Kalki 2898 AD'. Reports suggest that she will be back to a movie set with the sequel to 'Kalki 2898 Ad' which also starred Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan. Meanwhile, Rohit Shetty has confirmed that he will be making a film on DP's character Shakti Shetty in the future.

ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Slash ticket prices

Filmmaker, producer, and director Indrajit Lankesh has suggested that movie ticket prices be lowered to draw more people to the theaters. Indrajit was speaking at the trailer launch of Kannada movie 1990's along with television presenter Dr N Someswara.

"The state government must reduce movie ticket prices. Theater owners have to improve the amenities, especially the seating facility. The trailer of the movie (1990's) is good," said Indrajit.

The movie, set in the 1990s, features Arun and Rani Warad as the lead pair. The movie is directed by Nandakumar CM. Bankrolled under the Manasu Mallige Combines banner, it is expected to arrive in theaters on February 28.

Someswara, known for speaking flawless Kannada, appreciated the director for the quality of the trailer. "Most of the actors are newcomers. I wish them good luck," he said.

Nandakumar said the movie is a love story.

Song recorded

The team members of yet-to-be-named Crazy Star Ravichandran-starrer were on cloud nine after completing the recording of a song sung by Shreya Ghoshal in Mumbai recently. The song – Onde Maathalli Helodaadare – was recorded under the guidance of music director Palani D Senapathi. Kaviraj wrote this lyric.

S Suprith debut as a director in Sandalwood with this movie. "We have waited for more than a year to get Shreya Ghosal's appointment. She readily agreed to sing the song after having a discussion with music director Senapathi. We recorded the song at Shreya Ghoshal's studio in Mumbai. She took half a day to complete the song recording," said Suprith.

The director said the movie belongs to the love genre, but it throws some light on the love and affection between a father and his daughter. "The concept of the movie is quite different. Its shooting was held for 70 days in Kashmir, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Mangaluru, Chikmagalur, Mysuru, and Bengaluru. We have a plan to go abroad for 15 days to complete the remaining portion of the shooting," the director said.